

**MINUTES**  
**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**Project and Lands Committee**  
**Storch Room, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406**  
**Wednesday, August 8, 2007**

**Attendees:**

Harkley Thornton, Chairman  
Nicolas Gutierrez  
Malcolm Wade

Shannon Estenoz  
Melissa Meeker

**1. Call to Order – Harkley Thornton, Chairman**

Meeting called to order at 11:54 a.m.

**2. Agenda Changes/Additions/Deletions**

No changes were made to the agenda.

Chair Thornton requested that Ms. Estenoz be appointed to the position of Vice Chairman of this Committee. Motion by Nick Gutierrez, second by Malcolm Wade, and the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Approval of June 2006 Land Resources and Construction Committee minutes**

Mr. Gutierrez made a motion to approve the June, 2006 minutes, second by Ms. Meeker, and the motion passed unanimously.

**4. Project and Lands Committee Organizational Issues (Dates, Time, Place, Frequency of Meetings) – Ruth Clements, Director, Land Acquisition and Management Department**

The next Committee meetings will be in September and October before the Governing Board Workshops. The Committee members have requested that the following items be included in the next meetings:

Legal dissertation on the impact of the condemnation act.

Update on C111.

Mr. Thornton requested that projects requiring land acquisition be organized into groups for the Committee. The Committee would

then receive a briefing on each group beginning with the Committee meeting in October, 2007. Staff is also to bring to the Committee any pressing or difficult issues that need to be addressed.

For future meetings, Ms. Estenoz requested a presentation on mitigation under the ERP program. Staff commented that this may be a subject for a full Board Workshop rather than a Committee meeting.

The Committee, in giving staff points of general direction today, will look to staff to come back with policy recommendations and brief the Committee on how those recommendations will affect the projects, i.e., How do recommendations affect CERP project objectives.

**5. Discussion of Permit Applications within Proposed Project Footprints – Ken Ammon, Deputy Executive Director, Everglades Restoration, Terrie Bates, Assistant Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources, and Bob Brown, Director, Regulation Department**

Ken Ammon, Deputy Executive Director, opened the discussion on the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project and the permitting issues. Actions must be clearly in the interest of the public.

Mr. Bates presented the Committee with a background and history of the regulatory program, cohesiveness of the program with permitting, the District's goals and public interests.

There was discussion regarding the delineation of the CERP project areas with Mr. Wade and Mr. Gutierrez pointing out that the initial project footprints were not scientifically drawn.

Mr. Wade felt that the staff should be given flexibility to work with the public in acquiring needed project lands. Decisions need to be made and then the people should be informed of the decision.

Mr. Gutierrez recommended striving to avoid condemnation and work to a win-win resolution.

Ms. Estenoz would like to better understand the CERP objectives.

Carol Wehle, Executive Director, suggested that over the next 6 months the Committee look at the projects and project goals, discuss growth management and partnering with other governmental agencies. The District needs to look at land holdings and additional lands that are needed.

Staff will provide a detailed map of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands and spreader canals.

Public Comments:

Chair Thornton stated that he is asking for comments only on policy not on individual projects.

Ed Swakon requested that the Committee give clear guidance to staff and give it as soon as possible in order for staff to make decisions and inform the public.

Adjourn

Motion by Ms. Estenoz to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Gutierrez and unanimously passed; the meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

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Harkley Thornton, Chairman  
Project and Lands Committee